

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: EWG MEETING JANUARY 8, 1975; AGENDA ITEM III-ANTI-
TANK CAPABILITY

REF: A. USNATO 6729

B. USNATO 7094

SUMMARY. AT JANUARY 8, 1975 MEETING, EWG DISCUSSED US LETTER TO
EWG MEMBERS ON SUBJECT OF INFANTRY ANTI-TANK WEAPONS (REF A). EWG
DECIDED THAT: A) EWG WILL SEND LETTER TO CENTER REGION ALLIES
PLUS DENMARK, ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS CONCERNING NATIONAL
ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAMS, B) EWG WILL LOOK TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO
PROVIDE BALANCED, DETAILED FORCE PROPOSALS FOR ANTI-ARMOR IMPROVE-
MENTS TAILORED TO NATIONAL NEEDS AND RESOURCES, AND C) EWG WILL
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ASK CNAD TO PROVIDE REPORT PULLING TOGETHER VARIOUS ONGOING STUDIES
ON SUBJECT OF ANTI-ARMOR TO SHOW HOW ALLIANCE IS MOVING TOWARD
IMPROVEMENTS IN TERMS OF QUALITY AND STANDARDIZATION. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN (PANSA) OPENED EWG DISCUSSION OF ANGENDA ITEM III BY RECALLING DECEMBER 1973 MINISTEIAL ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSAL THAT COUNTRIES SHOULD, AS AN INTERIM MEASURE ADOPT,NOT LATER THAN END-1974, NATIONAL PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS FOR ACQUISITION OF MODERN INFANTRY ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS AND TO EXPEDITE REPLACEMENT OF OLDER, LESS CAPABLE WEAPONS--WHEREVER POSSIBLE ON ONE FOR ONE BASIS. HE STATED THAT WHILE DECEMBER 74 REPORT TO MINISTERS ON COUNTRY FORCE PLANS SHOWED SUBSTANTIAL ANTI-TANK WEAPONS PROGRAMS WERE UNDERWAY, MANY COUNTRIES WERE ACQUIRING WEAPONS TOO SLOWLY AND IN INSUFFICIENT NUMBERS. US LETTER OF NOVEMBER 29 (REF A) ILLUSTRATED THIS LATTER POINT VERY WELL.

2. US REP (LEGERE) STATED THAT US LETTER HAD MODEST PURPOSE STEMMING FROM MODEST RESEARCH, BUT WAS DIRECTED TOWARD A CRITICAL AREA. DPQ RESPONSES DO NOT CLEARLY SHOW THAT COUNTRIES ARE REPLACING OLDER ANTI-TANK WEAPONS ONE ONE FOR ONE BASIS, AND IT APPEARS THAT ONLY US AND FRG HAVE FINALIZED PLANS FOR GREATER THAN ONE FOR ONE REPLACEMENT. FURTHER, OUR EXAMINATION SHOWED THAT A CONSIDERABLE AND WORRISOME IMBALANCE MAY DEVELOP IN CENTER REGION BY END OF PLANNING PERIOD. SO FAR, IN US DELEGATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET ONLY VAGUE IDEA OF EMERGING PROBLEM, LARGELY DUE TO LACK OF DETAILS CONCERNING COUNTRY PLANS. TO DATE, ONLY US AND FRG HAVE PROVIDED DETAILED BRIEFINGS CONCERNING NATIONAL ANTI-ARMOR PLANS. US REP URGED OTHER ALLIES TO BRIEF EWG ON THEIR NATIONAL PLANS SO THAT GROUP WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO DISCERN EMERGING TREND, DISCUSS PROBLEMS, AND GET CLEARER IDEA WHETHER NATIONAL PLANS SET APPROPRIATE GOALS FORMODERN ANTI-TANK WEAPONS TO INSURE BALANCED ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY IN ALLIANCE.

3. CHAIRMAN STATED IT WAS "VERY RIGHT" FOR US DELEGATION TO CALL EWG ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM. MORE DETAILS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL. HE PERCEIVED POINT THAT IMBALANCE IS SERIOUS PROBLEM. IN ADDITION TO ASKING FOR MORE DETAILS FROM COUNTRIES, HE PROPOSED TO ASK MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATE ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS DENSITIES
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FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IN FORCE PROPOSALS DUE IN 1976 AND, AS INTERIM MEASURE, TO DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR MEEASURINGS PLANS COUNTRIES WILL SUBMIT IN 1975.

4. UK REP (MACDONALD) EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IMBALANCE WAS CONSEQUENCE OF MALDERPLOYMENT. CONCERNING QUESTION OF PROVIDING MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, HE STATED THAT WHILE THIS MIGHT BE DESIRABLE IN THE ONE PARTICULAR CASE OF THE ANTI-ARMOR STOCK TAKING PROPOSED, IN GENERAL, HE OPPOSED REQUESTS FOR MORE INFORMATION. COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE A ONCE A YEAR REPORTING EXERCISE, AND DO IT PROPERLY.

5. SHAPE REP (BGEN MILLER) SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE

DATA ON NATIONAL ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAMS, AND WOULD LOOK WITH INTEREST ON BRIEFINGS OR ANY OTHER NATIONAL SUBMISSIONS. HE EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS AGAINST RECOMMENDING OPTIMUM ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS DENSITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. HE STATED THAT IF MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO DEVELOP OPTIMUM DENSITIES, AND, IF COUNTRIES HAD UNCONSTRAINED RESOURCES,

THESE DENSITIES WOULD BE USEFUL. HOWEVER, WITH CONSTRAINED RESOURCES, COUNTRIES COULD SPEND ALL AVAILABLE FUNDS ACQUIRING THE RECOMMENDED OPTIMUM DENSITY OF INFANTRY ANTI-TANK WEAPONS AND HAVE NOTHING LEFT OVER FOR OTHER ANTI-TANK SYSTEMS, E.G., BARRIERS, MODERN AIR DELIVERED MUNITIONS, MINES, ETC. WITHIN RESOURCE LIMITS, MILITARY AUTHORITIES MUST DEVELOP FORCE PROPOSALS WHICH PROVIDE BALANCE AMONG ALL ANTI-TANK SYSTEMS. WHILE REASONABLY CONFIDENT SHAPES GUIDANCE TO CINCENT AND PSC'S CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT OF FORCE PROPOSALS GAVE SUFFICIENT EMPHASIS TO ANTI-ARMOR PROBLEM, HE WOULD RE-EXAMINE GUIDANCE TO INSURE THIS WAS SO AND AMEND GUIDANCE IF NECESSARY.

6. CHAIRMAN ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE A GOOD OCCASION FOR EWG TO ASK CNAD FOR A REPORT PULLING TOGETHER VARIOUS ONGOING STUDIES ON SUBJECT OF ANTI-ARMOR AND TO PRODUCE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS. ASYG FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT (TUCKER) STATED THAT THE REQUEST WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. MANY STUDIES WERE UNDERWAY WHICH WOULD COME TO FRUITFUL IN FORM OF REPORTS IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. CNAD COULD PULL THESE REPORTS TOGETHER TO SHOW HOW ALLIANCE IS MOVING IN THIS AREA
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OF IMPROVEMENTS IN TERMS OF QUALITY AND STANDARDIZATION.

7. IN SUMMING UP, CHAIRMAN SAID HE WOULD, IN CONSULTATION WITH US DELEGATION AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES, DEVELOP LETTER TO CENTER REGION COUNTRIES AND DENMARK INVITING THEM TO SUPPLY MORE DETAILS ON THEIR ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAMS AND SPECIFYING DETAILS REQUESTED. HE WOULD ALSO IMPROVE DPQ, TO ASK FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAMS. EWG WOULD LOOK TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE FORCE PROPOSALS FOR MODERN ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS. THESE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SPECIFIC, AND TAILORED TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY NEEDS AND RESOURCES. FINALLY, CHAIRMAN ASKED ASYG TUCKER FOR ANTI-ARMOR REPORT FROM CNADS.
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